

REMARKS

Claims 1-10, 33, 34, 37, and 40-42 are pending in this application. Claims 37 and 40 are amended. Claims 11-32, 38 and 39 are withdrawn. Claims 35 and 36 have been canceled by a previous amendment. Reconsideration and allowance of the claims are requested in view of the following remarks.

CLAIM REJECTION – 35 USC §102

Claims 1-10, 33-34, 37 and 40-42 are rejected Under 35 USC §102(e) as being anticipated by Shim et al. (US 6,844,717). Applicants traverse this rejection.

The Examiner alleges that Shim et al. teaches all the features recited in independent claims 1, 3, 5, 6, 33, 34, 37 and 40. As the Examiner is well aware, similar features are recited in the independent claims. Accordingly, Applicants will provide remarks to the overcome the Examiner's rejection with reference to claim 1 as the representative example.

Claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, “a main body including a sorting robot disposed thereon to move along an X-axis, and a loading robot and an unloading robot disposed thereon to each move along both an X-axis and a Y-axis.” (Emphasis added.)

The Examiner alleges that Shim et al. teaches a loading robot 90 and unloading robots 91 and 92. As can be seen from the quoted feature of claim 1 above, claim 1 recites that the loading and unloading robots move in both the X and Y axes. It is well known that an X axis is commonly used to designate a horizontal axis, and a Y axis is commonly used to designate a vertical axis. The Merriam-Webster's Online Dictionary, 10th Edition defines *Vertical* to mean:

2 a : perpendicular to the plane of the horizon or to a primary axis

Shim et al. clearly labels a loading robot 90 and unloading robots 91, 92 as a vertical loading robot 90 and vertical unloading robots 91, 92. Column 1, lines 56-57. By specifically and narrowly labeling the loading and unloading robots, Shim et al. clearly teaches that the loading 90 and unloading robots 91, 92 only move in one direction, i.e., in the vertical direction. In addition, Applicants draw the Examiner's attention to FIG. 1 and column 1, lines 55-64, where it teaches that the vertical loading robot 90 moves in a Y axis to pick up devices from a loading side plate 30. The vertical loading robot 90 again moving in a Y axis transfers the devices to a first tray arrangement station 80. In a similar manner, unloading robots 91, 92 moving in a Y axis transfer devices in second and third tray arrangement stations 81, 82, to unloading side set plates 40, respectively. As it will be appreciated, Shim et al. fails to suggest or teach all the features recited in the independent claims.

In addition, although the Examiner alleges that Shim et al. teaches that "the soak chamber, the test chamber, and the desoak chamber are attached to the main body and separable from the main body" recited in claim 1, nowhere in Shim et al. does it teach that any of the chambers are separable from the main body. (Emphasis added.) In addition, the Examiner fails to cite where in Shim et al. such a feature is taught.

Claim 1 also recites that a main body includes loading and unloading robots, and that the main body and chambers including a test chamber are included in a semiconductor device test apparatus. In other words, the main body and the chambers are separable from each other, and that the loading and unloading robots are included in the main body. On the other hand, the alleged loading and unloading robots 90, 91, 92 of Shim et al. are disposed on test

heads 100, 101. See. FIGS. 1 and 2 and column 2, lines 1-5. In other words, the loading and unloading robots of Shim et al. are in the test chamber.

For at least the reasons given above, Applicants submit that independent claims 1, 3, 5, 6, 33, 34, 37 and 40 are patentable over Shim et al. In addition, dependent claims 2, 4, 7 - 10 and 41-42 are also patentable for respectively depending on an allowable base claim.

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CONCLUSION

In view of the above remarks and amendments, the Applicants respectfully submit that each of the rejections has been addressed and overcome, placing the present application in condition for allowance. A notice to that effect is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

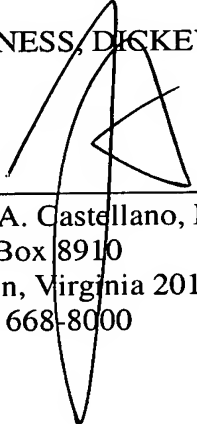
Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact John A. Castellano at the telephone number of the undersigned below.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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By



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